


# 2006 Update to the Massachusetts Stormwater Standards

**MassDEP's  
Stormwater Advisory Committee**

# Stormwater Regulation

- 
- **Combination of state, federal and local rules**
  - **Federal rules include NPDES Phase 2, Multi Sector General Permit, and the Construction General Permit**



# MA Conservation Commissions

- **State adopted Stormwater Standards in 1997**
- **Wetlands Regulations adopted those Standards**
- **Local Con Comms administer Wetlands Regulations**
- **Includes Stormwater Standards**
- **Within “jurisdictional areas”**



# Nine Stormwater Standards

- 1. No discharging untreated stormwater or causing erosion**
- 2. Post development peak discharge rates must not exceed pre-development rates**
- 3. Loss of recharge should be minimized to the maximum extent practicable**
- 4. 80% of sediment (TSS) must be removed**



# Nine Stormwater Standards

- 5. Discharges from areas with higher pollutant loads require specific BMPs and pretreatment**
- 6. Discharges to critical areas must use certain stormwater management BMPs approved for critical areas**
- 7. Redevelopment must meet all standards to the maximum extent practicable; if not practicable, stormwater systems must be designed to improve existing conditions**



# Nine Stormwater Standards

- 8. Erosion and sediment controls must be implemented during construction or land disturbance activities**
- 9. All stormwater systems must have an operation and maintenance plan to ensure that the system functions as designed**



# MassDEP reconvenes the Stormwater Advisory Committee

- **October 2005**
- **Update the Stormwater Standards**
- **Enhance Recharge**
- **Reconstitute and Reconvene a  
Stormwater Advisory Committee**
- **Report back in six months**



# Stormwater Advisory Committee

- **Participants from the 1998-2000 Advisory Committee**
- **Additional participation solicited**
- **Over 90 participants**
- **Three Subcommittees:**
  - **Policy**
  - **Recharge**
  - **BMP**



# Stormwater Advisory Committee Role

- **Provide advice to MassDEP**
- **Update and Enhance Recharge**
- **MassDEP administers Committee and maintains scope**
- **Advisors provide their best collaborative recommendations**




# What was the Result of the Advisory Committee's Work

- **Recommendations given to MassDEP March 2006**
- **Built upon lessons learned over the last decade**
- **MassDEP now considering recommendations**
- **LID techniques interwoven throughout**



# What Did the Advisors Recommend?

- **Focus the Standards on Site Planning and LID techniques**
  - “proponents should consider site planning, nonstructural approaches and low impact development techniques”
- **Core value that resonated through the recommendations**



# What Did the Advisors Recommend for O&M?

- **Enhanced disclosure of O&M requirements to Conservation Commissions and subsequent property owners**
- **Requires other actions to increase the likelihood that needed O&M occurs throughout the life of the BMP**




# What Did the Advisors Recommend for Redevelopment Projects?

- **New guidance for developers and local officials**
- **Redevelopment checklist helps evaluate**
- **How to meet Standards to the maximum extent practicable**
- **Must improve existing conditions.**



# What Did the Advisors Recommend to Promote LID?

- **Adopt a Credit system to promote use of LID techniques to meet recharge requirements**
- **Less reliance on infiltration basins or other hard infiltration structures**
- **Based on the credit system specified in the EOEA Smart Growth Tool Kit**



# What Did the Advisors Recommend for Recharge Calculations?

- **Increase Recharge Factors used to calculate Water Quality and Recharge Volumes**
- **Based on soil types**
  - Type A - from 0.4 to 0.6
  - Type B - from 0.25 to 0.35
  - Type C – from 0.1 to 0.25
  - Type D – from 0 to 0.1



# What Did the Advisors Recommend for BMPs?

- **Add a new BMP Summary Chart**
  - Highlights the suitability of different BMPs for various purposes
  - Encourages practitioners to begin with LID Site Design techniques
- **Add innovative LID BMPs to encourage their use**



# What Other Changes Did the Advisors Recommend?

- **Resolve issue of whether constructing BMPs can create wetlands jurisdictional area**
- **Prescribe standard methods for calculating dynamic infiltration**
- **Allow greater maximum infiltration rate in some soils with appropriate treatment**
- **Clarify use of Manufactured BMPs**



# What Do the Advisors Think Will Change “On the Ground?”

- **Preserve Natural Areas**
- **Decentralize recharge and treatment**
- **Smaller structures and basins**
- **Better O&M**
- **More recharge**



## For More Information . . .

- [www.mass.gov/dep/](http://www.mass.gov/dep/)
  - Go to Quick Links, select Stormwater, Click Go
- [Frederick.Civian@state.ma.us](mailto:Frederick.Civian@state.ma.us)
  - stormwater information and assistance
- <http://www.mass.gov/envir/sgtk.htm>
  - EOEA's Smart Growth Toolkit

